

**NY SWIMS Respondent Questions - 5/02/2024 to 5/29/2024**

Category	Questions from Respondents *	NY SWIMS Team Answer
Eligibility	In our case the Town would lease a pool from the school district during the summer months for ten years. They do not have a lease in place yet for this duration. and the RFA deadline does not allow for the execution of new lease with legislative approval. Am I right to understand that the owner of the property may provide a letter of support confirming their agreement with the capital improvement that also confirms their intention to lease the property to the applicant? (Redacted)	Round one of NYSWIMS is only open to Municipalities and Indian Nations. Passthrough arrangements are not allowed. Refer to Section 2.3 of the RFA regarding eligible projects. The Grantee must be the entity entering into the contracts for the work to be performed and the entity paying for the costs of the Project.  Also please read Section 2.4 of the RFA for information on project location requirements including required site control documentation. A letter of support of the property owner is required, but it does not take the place of a lease or rental agreement which also must be provided with the Application.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Am I correct in this understanding: documentation that Matching Funds are committed to the NY SWIMS project may be submitted after the application deadline, given that the deadline is incompatible with the municipal legislative process for appropriating funds? Also, may a resolution be used rather than bank account statements or bond documents?	Please refer to Section 2.6 of the RFA. There is no requirement that matching funds be fully secured by the date of Application, but Applications will be scored based on the amount of funds secured and/or timing of additional funds expected.  A board resolution may be used as documentation of matching funds.
Eligibility	Is this grant funding only available for municipalities?	As per Section 1 of the RFA, the current round of NY SWIMS funding is open to Municipalities and Indian Nations. Please see Section 1.2 and 2.2 of the RFA, along with the definitions included in Section 2.1.
Eligibility	In a municipality with multiple ZCTAs, which one should we use or do we use all ZCTAs within the municipality?	The ZCTA for the Project Location is used to evaluate Project Need. Please refer to Section 4.2 of the RFA under Project Need. Follow the instructions labeled "Using the 'Grants Map' for NY SWIMS for 2024" to identify the ZCTA of the Project Location. Then use the Point Breakdown "ZCTA" Table on the "Applicant Worksheet to Calculate Project Need" to assign points and multiply by 2 to determine the "Total Score for ZCTA".
Eligibility	For applicants who do not meet the minimum 20-point threshold based on overall RIN and ZCTA, will the program accept applications which isolate poverty estimates for certain disadvantaged areas if the municipal pool facility falls directly within the DAC?	Please refer to Section 2.1. of the RFA under Definitions. Underserved Communities are determined with respect to existing recreation opportunities and to the percent of the population below poverty level for the Project Location of the proposed Project. For scoring purposes, two data points will be utilized: the "Relative Index of Need" (RIN) that is published in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP); and the American Community Survey Poverty Estimates by Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA)( 2018-2022). Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) are developed by the US Census Bureau for tabulating summary statistics, including poverty rate. These data points are explained in Section 4.2 of the RFA.
Eligibility	Would a pool owned by a County Cornell Cooperative Extension be eligible for this grant program?	The current round of NY SWIMS funding is open to Municipalities as defined in Section 2.1 of the RFA as follows: For the purposes of this RFA, the term Municipality shall mean a County, City, Town, Village, or Indian Nation. Eligibility does not extend to any special purpose organizations or geographical jurisdiction formed under any of these listed entities.
Eligibility	The NY SWIMS grant was brought to my attention by our Town Board Supervisor as a potential grant to fix the swimming pool and pool house at a summer camp. The pool is part of a 4-H Camp and is also available as a municipal pool. Cornell Cooperative Extension is a partner agency to the municipality and owns the pool and property. Would Cornell Cooperative Extension be eligible to apply for this grant? (redacted)	The current round of NY SWIMS funding is open to Municipalities as defined in Section 2.1 of the RFA as follows: For the purposes of this RFA, the term Municipality shall mean a County, City, Town, Village, or Indian Nation. Eligibility does not extend to any special purpose organizations or geographical jurisdiction formed under any of these listed entities.
Eligibility	A not for profit in our community is currently developing a mixed use facility that includes a pool. Can the municipality applying for NYSWIMS funding enter into a lease agreement to allow City residents to use the pool? And since the not-for-profit undertaking the project has already entered into contracts for the overall project, can the City contract with the not-for-profit for the pool buildout and pass the grant funds through to them?	Round one of NY SWIMS is only open to Municipalities and Indian Nations. Passthrough arrangements are not allowed. Refer to Section 2.3 of the RFA regarding eligible projects. The Grantee must be the entity entering into the contracts for the work to be performed and the entity paying for the costs of the Project. Also read Section 2.4 of the RFA for information on project location requirements including required site control documentation.
Eligibility	Hello, I tried to submit an application for my business today 5/29/24. The website keeps giving me an error message. I am copying what I wrote below in hopes that you can please get it into the right hands. Thank you. We are a private aquatic and training organization.....(Redacted)	Please refer to Section 1 of the RFA, which states that Round one of NY SWIMS is only open to Municipalities and Indian Nations. Additionally, the SurveyMonkey website was for the submission of questions only, not Applications. The Application period will open on 6/13/2024 and extends through 7/12/2024 at 5 pm. Please carefully review the RFA for information and appendices for information on eligibility.
Application Process/Materials	Is there a recommended page limit for the overall application and/or individual sections?	Applicants should include supplemental documentation as necessary to describe and distinguish their project. Please refer to Section Four of the RFA for information regarding the selection criteria for a NY SWIMS grant.

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Eligibility  Project Funding/Match Requirement	Would an on-site kitchen for the preparation of afterschool meals be considered an Ancillary Project or Amenity?	An on-site kitchen appears to be unrelated to the Municipal Swimming Facility and wouldn't be considered as part of the NY SWIMS project. Please refer to Section 2.1 of the RFA under Definitions. Amenities that can be fully funded with NY SWIMS grant funds are costs that relate to the construction or renovation of a Municipal Swimming Facility, are required by State Sanitary Code, or needed for the safety of users. Ancillary Projects are costs related to the construction or renovation of Municipal Swimming Facilities, but do not expand access to Municipal Swimming Facilities and are not required by State Sanitary Code. Ancillary costs cannot make up more than 10% of the total Grant amount. Examples include splash pads, concession stands, picnic areas, and playgrounds. Ancillary Projects cannot be stand alone to be funded from NY SWIMS.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Our facility's current design includes one multipurpose room that would be used for water safety instruction. Is this an Ancillary Project or an Amenity?	Generally speaking, eligibility for the scope would need to be assessed as part of the entire capital project. Please refer to Section 2.1 of the RFA under Definitions. Amenities that can be fully funded with NY SWIMS grant funds are costs that relate to the construction or renovation of a Municipal Swimming Facility, are required by State Sanitary Code, or needed for the safety of users. Ancillary Projects are costs related to the construction or renovation of Municipal Swimming Facilities, but do not expand access to Municipal Swimming Facilities and are not required by State Sanitary Code. Ancillary costs cannot make up more than 10% of the total Grant amount. Examples include splash pads, concession stands, picnic areas, and playgrounds. Ancillary Projects cannot be stand alone to be funded from NY SWIMS.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	We are designing our pool facility to be able to support school and club swim team competitions. Is spectator seating an allowable cost under "Amenities"?	Spectator seating appears to be an ancillary project related to the Municipal Swimming Facility and as such would be limited to no more than 10% of the Total Grant amount. Please refer to Section 2.1 of the RFA under Definitions. Amenities that can be fully funded with NY SWIMS grant funds are costs that relate to the construction or renovation of a Municipal Swimming Facility, are required by State Sanitary Code, or needed for the safety of users. Ancillary Projects are costs related to the construction or renovation of Municipal Swimming Facilities, but do not expand access to Municipal Swimming Facilities and are not required by State Sanitary Code. Ancillary costs cannot make up more than 10% of the total Grant amount. Examples include splash pads, concession stands, picnic areas, and playgrounds. Ancillary Projects cannot be stand alone to be funded from NY SWIMS.
Eligibility	Can we confirm that an indoor Municipal Swimming Pool Facility is eligible for this grant?	There is no requirement under NY SWIMS that a Municipal Swimming Pool Facility be outdoors.
Scoring/Review Process	Could you explain in more detail what is meant by "changes in the composition of the population and social condition of the community"?	Please refer to Section 4.2 of the RFA. Step Two of the scoring process includes Project impact, with 20 points available based on the Applicant's narrative and supporting documentation describing the groups served by the proposed Project. Circumstances would vary by municipality.
Eligibility	Is it OK to submit for funding of a Municipal Swimming Facility that is a component part of a larger project as long as we are only applying for funding related to the Municipal Swimming Facility part of the facility?	An Applicant may apply for a NY SWIMS grant that is a component of a larger project; however, the budget/committed funding and timetable for the entire project would need to be submitted to be scored for viability.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Would a wellness room for fitness classes (yoga, etc.) be allowable as an Ancillary Project?	The wellness room for fitness classes as described in this question would not be considered for funding as part of the NY SWIMS program. Please refer to Section 2.1 of the RFA under Definitions. Amenities that can be fully funded with NY SWIMS grant funds are costs that relate to the construction or renovation of a Municipal Swimming Facility, are required by State Sanitary Code, or needed for the safety of users. Ancillary Projects are costs related to the construction or renovation of Municipal Swimming Facilities, but do not expand access to Municipal Swimming Facilities and are not required by State Sanitary Code. Ancillary costs cannot make up more than 10% of the total Grant amount. Ancillary Projects cannot be stand alone to be funded from NY SWIMS.
Eligibility	Does one ZCTA best describe the population which will be using the proposed facility, when in fact it will serve multiple ZCTAs? For example, if the poverty level of the proposed facility's ZCTA is 5.3%, but the average poverty level of all the ZCTAs the facility would serve is 9.6%, does the sole ZCTA accurately portray the facility's need? Paired with the RIN for the county in which our proposed facility is located, this adjusted percentage would give the project a qualifying Project Need Score of 20, instead of a non-qualifying score of 16.	Section 4.2 of the RFA states that the Project Location is used to evaluate Project Need. Follow the steps in boxes A through G on the Applicant Worksheet to Calculate Project Need (this is a 6-page section starting on page 5 within the Appendix 1 NY SWIMS Application). The Percent Below Poverty Level itself is not in the calculation, but is used to determine points for Box B from the Point Breakdown For Poverty Level chart. The Total Project Need Score (Box G) will only contain whole numbers. See also section 4.2 Two-Step Selection Criteria of the RFA.

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Eligibility	The Town does not have a municipal pool or natural swimming area but we have the room for a splash pad. This would be located in the Town Park and utilized by visitors as well as our day camp participants. Is this eligible since we do not have any other water source or is it still considered axillary? (Redacted)	A splash pad is considered an ancillary project, and ancillary projects cannot be funded as stand alone projects under NY SWIMS. Please refer to Section 2.1 of the RFA under Definitions. Ancillary Projects are costs related to the construction or renovation of Municipal Swimming Facilities, but do not expand access to Municipal Swimming Facilities and are not required by State Sanitary Code, including splash pads, concession stands, picnic areas, and playgrounds. Ancillary costs cannot make up more than 10% of the total Grant amount.
Eligibility	Is there money available for splash pads and picnic areas where there is no swimming area or swimming facility?	Splash pads and picnic areas are considered ancillary projects. Ancillary projects cannot be funded as stand alone projects under NY SWIMS. Please refer to Section 2.1 of the RFA under Definitions. Ancillary Projects are costs related to the construction or renovation of Municipal Swimming Facilities, but do not expand access to Municipal Swimming Facilities and are not required by State Sanitary Code, including splash pads, concession stands, picnic areas, and playgrounds. Ancillary costs cannot make up more than 10% of the total Grant amount.
Eligibility	Would a project currently under construction be eligible since there is still a funding gap and would work completed prior be eligible as a match component?	A project currently underway may apply for a NY SWIMS grant. Please refer to Section 2.5 of the RFA: Costs to be paid from Grant funds cannot have been incurred before April 1, 2024. Costs incurred subsequent to January 1, 2023 are eligible to be included as part of the 20% match. Such costs must meet all of the requirements of the NY SWIMS program and this RFA and must be documented to the satisfaction of NYS OPRHP and DASNY.
Eligibility	Can a municipality partner with another organization to lease an existing pool to provide swimming opportunities to underserved communities? For example, can a municipality partner with a local university to use their pool?	<p>NY SWIMS funds cannot be used for working capital including funds required to operate a facility, such as staff, rent/lease payments, utilities, toys, internal labor, supplies and equipment.</p> <p>NY SWIMS is a capital grant program to facilitate the renovation and construction of Municipal Swimming Facilities in Underserved Communities across the State. Funding is available for capital costs including acquisition, demolition, major renovation, reconstruction, improvement, modernization or rehabilitation of a Municipal Swimming Facility. Project costs are required to be paid by the Grantee. Please refer to Section 2.5 of the RFA for Eligible and Ineligible Uses of the Funds.</p>
Site Control	Outside of the 10 year lease minimum, can the municipality negotiate the site control requirements with a partner organization or are there other minimum requirements?	<p>Please refer to Section 2.4 of the RFA: If the Project will be undertaken on leased/rented real property, the lease or rental agreement must be provided. The lease/rental agreement must show that it is in effect for at least ten (10) years from the date the Application is submitted, and lease term will be verified at the time of the execution of the Grant Disbursement Agreement to ensure that a significant period of time remains on the lease term. Support of the property owner for the capital improvement(s) is also required to be submitted with the Application if the property is rented/leased. Include a letter on the landlord/lease agency's letterhead granting permission to complete the Project at the designated site. The letter must be dated and signed by an authorized officer of the landlord or leasing agency.</p> <p>Also refer to Section 2.3 of the RFA: Project costs are required to be paid by the Grantee and all contracts for the work to be performed for the Project are required to be signed by an Authorized Officer of the Grantee.</p> <p>The Grantee must be the entity entering into the contracts for the work to be performed and the entity paying for the costs of the Project.</p>
Application Process/Materials	What is the deadline for the grant application?	The deadline for submission of a NY SWIMS grant application is <b>5 pm July 12, 2024</b> . Please refer to page 10 of the RFA.
Application Process/Materials	Our application includes construction drawings. This makes the file size significant and challenging to email. Do you suggest holding these back or submitting these in a different fashion (such as an FTP)	Please refer to page 11 of the RFA for information on use of a zip file for NY SWIMS related attachments.
Eligibility	We have already begun construction and want to be sure that the project is still eligible.	Please refer to Section 2.5 of the RFA: Costs to be paid from Grant funds cannot have been incurred before April 1, 2024. Costs incurred subsequent to January 1, 2023 are eligible to be included as part of the 20% match. Such costs must meet all of the requirements of the NY SWIMS program and this RFA and must be documented to the satisfaction of NYS OPRHP and DASNY.

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Application Process/Materials	Our total project will be \$26,000,000. However, for the purposes of the grant, we are seeking DASNY support on only the pool elements (\$18,000,000) A signed engineering memo will be provided to detail these costs and no grant support will be requested from ancillary facilities. How do you recommend we communicate this in the application?	An Applicant may apply for a NY SWIMS grant that is a component of a larger project; however, the budget/committed funding and timetable for the entire project would need to be submitted to be scored for viability.
Application Process/Materials	We plan to have the application submitted as one file with appendices. Is that acceptable?	Please refer to page 11 of the RFA for information about application submission, item #2) The Applicant may choose to submit one comprehensive PDF of the Application with all related backup documentation, or to submit an email with multiple attachments.
State Environmental Quality Review	We have begun SEQRA and expect a negative determination (replacement project in same footprint of former pool, all DEC, DOH and SHPO review completed). Is completed SEQRA review at application close critical? Or is SEQRA required before entering into contract? Can you please detail SEQRA disqualifications as they relate to application vs. contact or project administration?	Refer to page 13 of the RFA: If a SEQRA review has been conducted for the Project, the Applicant must provide either the Findings Statement or the Negative Declaration prepared by the SEQRA Lead Agency in connection with the Project. If no SEQRA review has been undertaken in connection with a Project that is currently underway or has not started, DASNY will undertake the necessary review. If a Section 14.09 of the Historic Preservation Act review was completed in connection with the NY SWIMS Project, please provide documentation. A SEQRA review is required to be completed before entering into the GDA (contract). The SEQRA does not need to be completed at time of Application.
Scoring/Review Process	If DASNY and NYS Parks believe that an applicant misclassified an ancillary project cost as an amenity in their submission, would that result in points automatically deducted from the applicant's score? Or would a point deduction depend on how egregious the error is/would it be taken into consideration as part of the overall quality of the application, and be considered relative to other applications? And assuming the grant will awarded and the applicant had already identified 10% in ancillary project costs in their submission, would DASNY and NYS Parks reduce the award value based on their calculation of the eligible cost?	Projects will be scored based on their overall submission, including a robust narrative and completeness of supplemental documentation to support the project budget and match requirement.  With regard to the classification of ancillary projects and amenities, please carefully read the RFA, including the definitions in Section 2.1. Items defined as "amenities" are costs related to the construction or renovation of Municipal Swimming Facilities that allow for the expansion of access to Municipal Swimming Facilities, are required by State Sanitary Code, or are needed for the safety of users. Ancillary projects are defined as items that do not expand access to Municipal Swimming Facilities, and are not required by State Sanitary Code. Applying that definition, these items are limited to no more than 10% of the total Grant amount.
Eligibility	Some of our swimming facilities/complexes include wading pools, which are between 1'-2.5' deep and can range anywhere from 625 square feet to 5,800 square feet in size. Can you please confirm if wading pools are fully eligible for renovation under the NY SWIMS grant program, or if they would be considered ancillary projects? Is there a minimum depth? While they can be a bit shallow for swimming, wading pools do require lifeguards to operate.	Consistent with <a href="https://regs.health.ny.gov/content/section-6-12-definitions">https://regs.health.ny.gov/content/section-6-12-definitions</a> , a wading pool is "a swimming pool that contains water a maximum of two feet deep" and will be included within the definition of "amenities" as on page 4 of the RFA.
Eligibility	Hi NY Swims – I am working with a City and a non-profit on a new pool in our downtown. Before we submit and application, we were hoping we could meet with someone in the NY Swims program to confirm that our project fits with the current parameters. The proposed project would rehab a former YWCA in our downtown to include two components – a pool and wellness center leased to the City on the ground floor and 20 units of permanent supportive housing for Veterans on the 1st and 2nd floor developed by the non-profit. The non-profit would be the overall owner of the building and would execute a long-term lease to the City for the pool and wellness center to create the Municipal Pool. The project has already received HHAP funds through OTDA, funds from the State Assemblymember, and ARPA funds from the City, for the project match. Our questions are: 1.Is this lease structure allowable under the current program parameters? 2.As per the RFA, the City would be the applicant for the NY SWIMS grant and would carry out the work. Given that the non-profit will be doing the rehab work on the entire building at the same time to complete the residential portion of the project, would it be allowable for the City to contract with the non-profit to also build out the pool? (REDACTED)	In accordance with State Finance Law § 139-j and § 139-k, the NY SWIMS RFA includes and imposes certain restrictions on communications between the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York ("DASNY") and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation ("NYS OPRHP") personnel and an Applicant, or any representative, agent, consultant or other third party representing the Applicant during the procurement process. Any questions regarding this RFA should be submitted via the NY SWIMS Survey link: <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYSWIMS2024">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYSWIMS2024</a> .  Contacts made to any DASNY, NYS OPRHP or other State personnel regarding this procurement as noted in this RFA between the date of release and Application deadline may disqualify the Applicant and affect future procurements with governmental entities in the State of New York. Please refer to DASNY's website ( <a href="http://www.dasny.org">www.dasny.org</a> ) for policies and procedures regarding this law, or the OGS website ( <a href="http://ogs.ny.gov/acpl/">http://ogs.ny.gov/acpl/</a> ) for more information about this law.  Also refer to Section 2.3 of the RFA regarding eligible projects. The Grantee must be the entity entering into the contracts for the work to be performed and the entity paying for the costs of the Project.  Please read Section 2.4 of the RFA for information on project location requirements including required site control documentation.

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Other	Can municipalities submit multiple project requests, and would the state approve multiple grants within the same municipality?	<p>Per Section 2.3 of the RFA, Applicants may submit Applications for more than one Project. As per Section 3.1 of the RFA, each Project Application must be submitted in a separate e-mail submission to NYSWIMS@DASNY.org, with all relevant documents attached.</p> <p>Applications will be scored based on the criteria set forth in Section Four of the RFA. The Applicants with the highest scores of 60 and above shall be awarded a NY SWIMS Grant to the extent funding is available under the RFA, and as stated in the RFA, regional diversity shall be a goal in the award of NY SWIMS Grants across the State.</p>
Eligibility	Where does this grant apply to.	The directions for submission of grant applications are included in the NY SWIMS RFA posted to the NYS OPRHP and DASNY website. Please read the RFA in its entirety. Detailed submission information is included in Section 3.2 of the RFA. All Applications must be submitted to the NYSWIMS@DASNY.org website from 6/13/2024 through 5 pm on 7/12/2024. Applications submitted after the due date will not be considered.
Grant Disbursement Agreement	If I already have a certification, does It apply to being part of the reimbursement?	DASNY requires a Grantee Certification and Project Certification for each grant. DASNY requires a Grantee Questionnaire (GQ) to be completed for each grantee. Please refer to Section 2.1 of the RFA for definitions of these documents. GQs are valid for 12 months after they have been accepted and reviewed. If an existing DASNY grantee is successful in receiving a SWIMS grant and they have a valid GQ on file at the time a SWIMS GDA is ready for execution, a new GQ would not be required.
Eligibility	A non-profit is developing a former motel into affordable and supportive housing. They are also rehabilitating the on-site, enclosed pool, converting it to a salt water pool. The pool will be available to the public, all year. The non-profit is developing, own and manage the site including the pool. The non-profit has already been awarded HHAP funds for the housing and DASNY will over see the project. Can the County apply for the pool on the non-profit's behalf, this round?	The Applicant should be the entity who has site control of the facility and would be entering into contracts and paying vendors for the development of the project. Round One of NY SWIMS is only open to Municipalities. The Municipality should be the entity with site control of the facility, entering into contract, and paying vendors.
Eligibility	A non-profit organization is developing permanent affordable and supportive housing at a former motel site, and intends to renovate the on site, enclosed pool for use by the public. The non-profit will develop, own and manage the site. The site has received HHAP (OTDA) capital funding that will be overseen by DASNY. Construction is expected to start in September 2024. Can the County apply on behalf of the non-profit in this first round?	The Applicant should be the entity who has site control of the facility and would be entering into contracts and paying vendors for the development of the project. Round One of NY SWIMS is only open to Municipalities. The Municipality should be the entity with site control of the facility, entering into contract, and paying vendors.
Eligibility	I manage a small not for profit that is currently in the process of trying to rehabilitate and renovate our swimming pool that has been here for 100 years. Would our project be eligible for this grant?	Round One of the NY SWIMS program is only for Municipalities as defined in the RFA.
Scoring/Review Process	Will the scores from all the qualifying applications be made public after the review process?	Per Section 5.1 of the RFA, NY SWIMS Awards will be announced after all qualifying Applications have been scored by NYS OPRHP and DASNY. There is no plan to publish the results of the scores.
Application Process/Materials	May application attachments be sent via Microsoft OneDrive if there are technical issues sending large attachments?	Page 11 of the RFA provides instruction on the preparation of zip files to address the issue of large attachments. If this approach doesn't work, the RFA instructs applicants to send technical questions to NYSWIMS@DASNY.org
Application Process/Materials	Will DASNY confirm receipt of the application so the applicant knows whether to follow up if there are technical issues with sending it?	The NYSWIMS@DASNY.org mailbox is set to auto-reply.
Site Control	Does the municipality need to own the site of the pool or can it lease the premises? The Certificate of Municipal Site Control seems to only refer to Fee Title options but the FAQ suggests leases of at least 10 years are an option. If a lease is an option, can a Municipality lease a pool space that is within a building that includes other uses, such as supportive housing. In this particular case, the pool would be on the ground floor of the building, would be open to the public, and would have an entrance separate from the housing.	Per Section 2.4 of the RFA, if the Project will be undertaken on leased/rented real property, the lease or rental agreement must be provided. The lease/rental agreement must show that it is in effect for at least ten (10) years from the date the Application is submitted, and lease term will be verified at the time of the execution of the Grant Disbursement Agreement to ensure that a significant period of time remains on the lease term. Support of the property owner for the capital improvement(s) is also required to be submitted with the Application if the property is rented/leased. Include a letter on the landlord/lease agency's letterhead granting permission to complete the Project at the designated site. The letter must be dated and signed by an authorized officer of the landlord or leasing agency. Additionally, the Grantee must be the entity entering into the contracts for the work to be performed and the entity paying vendors for the costs of the Project.

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Application Process/Materials	My project started design (and construction) before grant program was announced. When you are asking for the project start date, can you specify what start date you're asking for? Is it the date the project was initiated in design, in construction, when we are aiming to have the GDA executed, or some other date?	Costs to be paid from Grant funds under the NY SWIMS program cannot have been incurred before April 1, 2024. Costs incurred subsequent to January 1, 2023 are eligible to be included as part of the 20% match requirement. After the issuance of Award announcements, DASNY will undertake a financial, environmental, bond and tax counsel review and verify site control. Once reviews have been completed, DASNY will enter into a Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA) with the grantee. The NY SWIMS GDA will expire 5 years after the GDA is executed, and the grantee should request full reimbursement under the grant award within the 5 years the GDA is active.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Can a grant awarded by NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Environmental Protection (EPF) for the proposed swimming facility be used as matching funds for the SWIMS grant?	Section 2.6 of the RFA details the required 1:4 match. Yes, other grant awards, both State and federal, may be counted toward the 20% match requirement under the NY SWIMS program; however, the applicant should be aware that some State grant programs do carry restrictions on their use as a match, and they should refer to the guidelines of those programs they intend to use as a match to NY SWIMS to determine any restrictions. In the case of the example provided, the only restriction on OPRHP's Environmental Protection Fund Grant Program for Parks, Preservation and Heritage (EPF) Program is that they cannot be used as a match for other EPF sources; however they would be able to be used as a match for NY SWIMS.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Are there any restrictions on what can and cannot be used as matching funds?	Refer to Section 2.6 of the RFA for a list of examples of the types of possible match components and the proper documentation required with your NY SWIMS application. Expenditures included as a match must have occurred subsequent to January 1, 2023. To further clarify, an Applicant can count internal labor provided that it can be properly traced to a project. Generally, with regard to in-kind services provided by the Municipality, there must be an outlay of cash in order for something to count as match. If equipment was rented solely for the completion of the project, then the rental payment would be a good match amount, but depreciation of owned equipment would not be allowed.
Scoring/Review Process	Will you accept Letters of Support, and will they be used in scoring our application?	Section 4.2 of the RFA outlines the Two-Step Selection Criteria and scoring details. Letters of support are not necessary and are not included in the scoring process.
Eligibility	What does this sentence mean: NY SWIMS funds are also available to support ancillary projects, including splash pads, concession stands, picnic areas, and playgrounds. Funds for these costs are limited to 10 percent of grants awarded for any individual project.	Under NY SWIMS, splash pads, concession stands, picnic areas and playgrounds are considered ancillary projects and while they may be included as part of a larger swimming facility project and funded under a NY SWIMS grant, these ancillary projects can only account for 10% of the total grant award. Ancillary projects (splash pads, concessions stands, picnic areas and playgrounds) cannot be stand alone projects under NY SWIMS.
Eligibility	For step one point calculation, is the ZCTA value is a decimal, are you able to round that decimal to nearest whole number? In other words, if ZCTA is 14.6% and the RIN is 5, can you round up from 19.6 to 20 in order to show eligibility? Thank you	Follow the steps in boxes A through G on the <b>Applicant Worksheet to Calculate Project Need</b> (this is a 6-page section starting on page 5 within the Appendix 1 NY SWIMS Application). The Percent Below Poverty Level itself is not in the calculation, but is used to determine points for Box B from the Point Breakdown For Poverty Level chart. The Total Project Need Score (Box G) will only contain whole numbers. See also section 4.2 Two-Step Selection Criteria of the RFA.
Project Timeline	Hello, what is the period of performance for this grant i.e. when does the project need to be completed by?	Costs to be paid from Grant funds under the NY SWIMS program cannot have been incurred before April 1, 2024. Costs incurred subsequent to January 1, 2023 are eligible to be included as part of the 20% match requirement. After the issuance of Award announcements, DASNY will undertake a financial, environmental, bond and tax counsel review and verify site control. Once reviews have been completed, DASNY will enter into a Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA) with the grantee. The NY SWIMS GDA will expire 5 years after the GDA is executed, and the grantee should request full reimbursement under the grant award within the 5 years the GDA is active.

**NY SWIMS Respondent Questions - 5/02/2024 to 5/29/2024**

Category	Questions from Respondents *	NY SWIMS Team Answer
Eligibility	The Town would like to apply to the NY Swims Program and would like to inquire about the Town's eligibility for such funding. The Town is in the process of developing a health and wellness center as part of its revitalization effort. The proposed facility includes the construction of a 90,000 sqf building, two-thirds of which will be dedicated as a Town recreation center. The Town intends to enter into an operating agreement with the non-profit organization to manage the recreation center. Currently, the Town owns the property and will act as the developer alongside its Local Development Corporation (LDC) to oversee construction. Upon completion, the Town will retain ownership of the facility, with the non-profit organization serving as the operator. One of the key components of the proposed facility is an indoor pool, aligning with the objectives of the NY Swims Program. Given these details, we believe that the Town meets the criteria outlined for eligibility in the NY Swims Program. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to receiving further guidance on our eligibility status. Thank you for your attention to this matter. (Redacted)	The Applicant should be the entity who has site control of the facility and would be entering into contracts and paying vendors for the development of the project. Round One of NY SWIMS is only open to Municipalities. Additionally, all Applications will be scored based on Project Need, as outlined in the RFA and the Applicant Worksheet to Calculate Project Need. Only Projects scoring at least 20 points for Project Need will be evaluated in Step Two. Applications that have a Project Need score of at least 20 points will be scored in Step Two based on Project Impact and Project Viability & Novel Features, as described in the RFA. Applications that have a Project Need score of less than 20 points will be deemed ineligible and will not be evaluated in Step Two.
Eligibility	Can you please confirm if locker rooms/changing facilities and dehumidification systems for indoor pools count as amenities and not ancillary features?	Amenities are defined in the RFA as costs related to the construction or renovation of Municipal Swimming Facilities that allow for the expansion of access to Municipal Swimming Facilities, are required by State Sanitary Code, or needed for the safety of users. Examples include public restrooms, bathhouses, showers, shade structures, pavilions, etc.
Grant Disbursement Agreement	How will the 80%/20% local match be considered or factored when paying out reimbursements? For example, if we submit a reimbursement request demonstrating that we paid our vendors \$1M in direct costs, will DASNY only reimburse us for 80% of that amount/\$800K?	The 20% match component will be reviewed in the context of the overall budget, not for each reimbursement request.
Project Timeline	If the project will not be completed in the 5 years of the GDA, but we anticipate being able to spend the maximum grant amount within the GDA period, will that count against our score?	Project Viability and Novel Features is part of the Step Two scoring process and worth up to 40 points. The project timeline as described in the project narrative and included on the fillable application (Project Start Date and Anticipated Date of Project Completion) will certainly have a basis in scoring.
Grant Disbursement Agreement	Will any portion of the funding or reimbursement be withheld and released upon completion of the project? Or will DASNY pay out the entire grant amount if we can demonstrate and submit reimbursement for costs greater than or equal to the grant amount within the GDA period?	DASNY will not withhold retainage. Under NY SWIMS, the Grantee may requisition funds for work completed, and each requisition will be reviewed to verify proper documentation has been included. Reimbursements will be made up to the entire grant amount as set forth in the Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA). Details of the requisition process are included in Section 5.5 of the RFA.
Scoring/Review Process	Under eligibility Criteria if you can only achieve 20 out of 40 points does that eliminate your application	Applications that receive 20 points under Step One - Project Need will advance to scoring in Step Two.
Eligibility	We have invested in a variety of improvements to our municipal pool itself in recent years including perimeter tile decking, pool liner replacement, and a new filtration system. The remaining major issues with the natatorium are the locker rooms, steam rooms, and building façade (brick façade in poor condition). Are these items eligible as priority project costs or do they fall under ancillary features?	Amenities as defined in the RFA are: costs related to the construction or renovation of Municipal Swimming Facilities that allow for the expansion of access to Municipal Swimming Facilities, are required by State Sanitary Code, or needed for safety of users. Examples include public restrooms, bathhouses, showers, shade structures or pavilions. Please note that grant funds cannot be used for certain repairs or routine/deferred maintenance items; however needed structural improvements to a facade may be eligible, but would need to be reviewed in the context of the overall project.
Project Timeline	Is the performance period 5 years from the execution of the GDA?	Costs to be paid from Grant funds under the NY SWIMS program cannot have been incurred before April 1, 2024. Costs incurred subsequent to January 1, 2023 are eligible to be included as part of the 20% match requirement. After the issuance of Award announcements, DASNY will undertake a financial, environmental, bond and tax counsel review and verify site control. Once reviews have been completed, DASNY will enter into a Grant Disbursement Agreement (GDA) with the grantee. The NY SWIMS GDA will expire 5 years after the GDA is executed, and the grantee should request full reimbursement under the grant award within the 5 years the GDA is active.
Project Timeline	Are extensions available beyond the performance period?	Under Section Six of the RFA, NYS OPRHP and DASNY reserve the right to withdraw the award if: (i) the grant administration process is delayed in excess of twelve (12) months due to non-responsiveness; (ii) inability of the Awardee to provide the documentation required for the successful administration of the Grant award (e.g., site control documentation, financial documentation, etc.); and/or (iii) Awardee fails to provide documentation required to prepare a Grant contract or fails to execute a Grant contract within twelve (12) months from date of award. GDA extensions beyond the 5 year term would need to be reviewed on a case by case basis.

NY SWIMS Respondent Questions - 5/02/2024 to 5/29/2024

Category	Questions from Respondents *	NY SWIMS Team Answer
Project Funding/Match Requirement	Are in-kind services allowed as part of the 20% match requirement (i.e. our highway department providing excavation and site preparation work)?	Refer to Section 2.6 of the RFA for a list of examples of the types of possible match components and the proper documentation required with your NY SWIMS application. Expenditures included as a match must have occurred subsequent to January 1, 2023. To further clarify, an Applicant can count internal labor provided that it can be properly traced to a project. Generally, with regard to in-kind services provided by the Municipality, there must be an outlay of cash in order for something to count as match. If equipment was rented solely for the completion of the project, then the rental payment would be a good match amount, but depreciation of owned equipment would not be allowed.
Eligibility	It lists municipalities as being able to apply for grant funding. What about non-profits, for-profits, educational institutions?	Round One of the NY SWIMS program is only for Municipalities as defined in the RFA.
Eligibility	Would it be possible to clarify how and/or why the "Project Need" scoring criteria formula was conceived the way it is? What if a prospective applicant can propose a well-developed and novel project with significant regional outcomes; but essentially becomes ineligible because they cannot score above 20 points using the existing "Project Need" formula. Can you please explain the relationship between poverty rates and publicly accessible recreational facilities? Especially swimming facilities that are intended to be open and available to all individuals, regardless of which community the facility may be located in? It just seems a bit extreme that a potentially great project may never get scored on the merits of its proposal, but is instead immediately disqualified simply because it happens to be located in a community with a below average poverty rate.	Round One of the New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming funding opportunity is to provide "funding to support the construction or renovation of Municipal Swimming Facilities, and improvements ancillary thereto, in Underserved Communities across the State." (RFA, p.2). This supports Governor Hochul's commitment to "build out municipal pools in high-need areas, connect New Yorkers to the State's rivers and lakes, deploy pools in urban environments, and invest in State parks and pools" ( <a href="https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-unveils-fourth-proposal-2024-state-state-ny-swims-new-york-statewide">https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-unveils-fourth-proposal-2024-state-state-ny-swims-new-york-statewide</a> ).
Eligibility	Will splash pads be funded under this grant or only inground swimming pools?	As per section 2.5 of the RFA, project costs can include ancillary features to a Municipal Swimming Facility, including splash pads, concession stands, picnic areas, and playgrounds, but these features can only account for up to 10% of the total Grant amount.
Eligibility	Who is eligible?	As per the RFA, the current round of NY SWIMS funding is open to Municipalities and Indian Nations. Please see Section 1.2 and 2.2 of the RFA, along with the definitions included in Section 2.1
Eligibility	How many applications for distinct projects may a municipality submit?	As per the RFA Section 2.3, Applicants may submit Applications for more than one project. A separate Application must be submitted for each Project. There is not a set limit on the number of applications a municipality can submit; however, per the RFA Section 4, regional diversity is a goal in the awarding of Grants across the State and NYS OPRHP and DASNY will try to achieve this goal as part of the review and scoring process.
Other	How are sites expected to maintain the pool in underserved locations?	NY SWIMS grants are for capital projects only. There are no operating funds associated with NY SWIMS grants.
Other	If there is a plan to provide long term help to support this initiative, how many years would the site expect monetary help to maintain the pool and help with life guard training?	NY SWIMS grants are for capital projects only. There are no operating funds associated with NY SWIMS grants.
Project Funding/Match Requirement	The City is currently in design for a new outdoor pool facility. The total project cost for construction is approximately \$8 million. We have been awarded \$750,000 in funding through NYS Parks for construction, and have another application into the National Parks Service Legacy Program for approximately \$4 million dollars. Are we able to use these other State and Federal sources towards our 20% match for the NY SWIMS program? (Redacted)	Section 2.6 of the RFA details the required 1:4 match. Yes, other grant awards, both State and federal, may be counted toward the 20% match requirement.

\* The NY SWIMS team redacted any specific identifying information to keep all respondents anonymous. Thank you to all those who participated and for your interest in this program.